

DCF

4:00 p.m., December 13

Statement by Secretary Haig, Hyatt-Regency Hotel,
Brussels

State Dept. review completed

I want to share with you today our information on the Polish situation and explain our approach on the evolving situation there as we know it now.

The facts are these:

-- Early this morning the Prime Minister announced that Polish security forces began "interning" Solidarity, dissident and party leaders in Warsaw; we have reports that similar actions are being taken in other Polish cities as well.

-- Simultaneously, Polish communications were cut within the country and with the outside world;

-- Polish security forces have been dispatched to key offices and facilities, including union headquarters.

-- Air traffic in and out of Poland has been restricted, and for the time being foreigners are not being permitted to enter the country;

-- In sum, what amounts to martial law has been instituted in Poland.

Of course, we have no way of predicting what the outcome of these developments will be.

Our Charge in Warsaw has been assured by a senior Polish Foreign Office official and there will be no return to the situation which existed in Poland prior to August 1980.

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That, you will recall, is when the Government agreed to accept major reforms under pressure from the Solidarity labor movement. Our Charge was told by the Polish official today that reforms would continue. That, of course, remains to be seen.

Pending further information, it would be unwise to say too much at this time. Nevertheless, I must emphasize that we are seriously concerned about the decision to impose martial law; as we have said before, the political experiments underway in Poland should be allowed to proceed unimpeded. The potential instabilities in Poland which could arise from the imposition of martial law are obvious to all.

For this reason, the United States Government reiterates that the Polish people should find a solution to their current difficulties through a process of negotiation and compromise among the parties involved. Above all, they should be permitted to do so without any outside interference.